



The last few months have been busy for Fire Planning Analysis. The FPA Core Team and Implementation Coordination Group worked closely with IBM to finalize the preparedness module software, develop lesson plans and conduct training. As a result, there were no October or November newsletters. For more information call Venetia Gempler 208-947-3786 or visit <http://fpa.nifc.gov> or FPA's [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\)](#)

December 2004

Current Topics:

- FPA-PM Software Released
- Beginning the process
- Line Officer Involvement
- Sample FPU Charter
- Easing into FPA -Transition Plan
- FPA Training Update
- Phase 2 Planning Underway

Fire Program Analysis (FPA) is a new system designed to help wildland fire managers plan and budget a common interagency fire management program at the landscape scale. FPA will display how different fire management budgets effectively support land management goals and objectives.

The Different Faces of FPA

Wally Josephson from The Department of Interior's Office of Wildland Fire and Coordination is leaving Washington, D.C. to join FPA as the new Business Lead beginning in January, 2005.

Craig Thompson, from the National Park Service's Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area, is the FPA Project's new Geographic Information System

■ **FPA-PM Software Released:** Phase 1, version 1.0 of the FPA-Preparedness Module (PM) software was released on schedule, October 1, 2004. Subsequent software releases are scheduled: Version 1.1 - December 15, 2004; Version 1.2 - February 1, 2005.

■ **Beginning the process but not sure where to start?** Before participating in FPA there are some preliminary tasks you need to complete, such as cleaning up data and forming your team. These tasks are listed at the end of the [August FPA Newsletter](#).

Two of the most important areas to focus on, include enlisting your line officer's support and developing an interagency Charter for your Fire Planning Unit (FPU). These two efforts, done well, will ease FPA implementation and ensure success.

■ **Line officer involvement:** Having line officers involved and informed during all stages of FPA ensures budget formulations and allocations complement land, resource, and fire management objectives. It also guarantees your preparedness program is adequately represented in the interagency analysis. The link above outlines areas where line officer participation is critical to the FPA process.

■ **Sample Fire Planning Unit (FPU) Charter:** The purpose of an interagency charter is to define how the FPU can operate within FPA. A [sample FPU Charter](#) is available on the FPA information web site. **Please note:** All FPUs must develop a charter to identify participating agencies' roles and responsibilities by the end of **March, 2005**. (Formal direction on this task will soon follow.)

■ **Easing into FPA - Transition Plan:** A transition plan will describe in detail, when actions for Fiscal Years 05-09 will be initiated and how FPA will function at all management levels. For example, specific actions at different levels for Fiscal Year 2005 include:

- **FPU level:** charters are developed in FY 05.

Coordinator.

The Core Team

is an interagency group incorporating wildland fire management concepts, goals and objectives into the design of the FPA modules. They interface with the Implementation Coordination Group and coordinate with IBM on developing the analysis software for Phase 1.

The Implementation Coordination Group (ICG)

The challenging task of implementing Phase 1 is the responsibility of the interagency Implementation Coordination Group (ICG). The ICG members are the liaisons to the agency field units. They provide feedback to the Core Team and Steering Committee regarding other aspects of the FPA, and they are the subject matter experts assisting the FPA application Help Desk. They have also developed Phase 1 user and reference guides, training courses and materials, and the review certification process.

The **Steering Committee** manages the project and provides guidance and direction.

• **Steve Botti**,
National Park Service

• **Lyle Carlile**,
Bureau of Indian Affairs

• **Brian McManus**,
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

• **Aden Seidlitz and Andy Smith**,
Bureau of Land Management

• **Bill Breedlove, Dave Cleaves,
and Buck Latapie**,
U.S. Forest Service

- **State and regional level:** line officers and lead fire managers establish Geographic Area Executive Boards, FPA Working Groups and Charters.
- **National level:** establish a Charter for a national interagency planning and budget team to provide oversight for federal implementation of the FPA system.

Transition components include: budget formulation, using FPA outputs for budget allocation, FPU boundaries, level of Phase 1 participation, and completion and certification. As soon as the plan is finalized, it will be featured on the FPA information website.

■ **FPA Training Update:** Phase 1, FPA-PM training consists of two courses:

1. Historic Analysis focuses on compiling historic weather occurrence and data compatible to run FPA-PM.
2. FPA-PM explains the workings of the entire preparedness module and inputs Historic Analysis data to run the system and find the most efficient and effective preparedness levels for different cost frontiers.

The first wave of training focused on the four FPA Prototypes, Regional and State Fire Planners and approximately 40 Fire Planning Units (FPUs) throughout the United States. Those planning units represent one third of the nation's [FPUs](#), with more than 60 percent of the wildland fire preparedness workload. The outcomes generated will contribute to the 2007 budget formulation.

The second wave of training for the remaining FPUs is planned for March through November of 2005. Nominees must have supervisor approval before forwarding their nomination to the Geographic Area FPA group.

- Until your FPU has gone through FPA-PM training, you will use the existing budget analysis system to formulate the Fiscal Year 2007 budget.
- When all the FPUs have completed training (by next fall), FPA-PM will replace the existing preparedness analysis systems. FPA-PM will be used by the FPUs for formulation of Fiscal Year 2008 budget, which will be developed in Fiscal Year 2006.

■ **Phase 2 Planning Underway:** Preliminary scoping planning for Phase 2 began in 2004. Designing and building of Phase 2 will occur over the next several years and will include extended attack, large fire support, fuels, prevention, and rehabilitation. Field unit implementation of Phase 2 will occur after 2007.